



Grants Update

Recent Developments and Future Priorities

Department of Commerce
Big A Conference
May 31, 2017

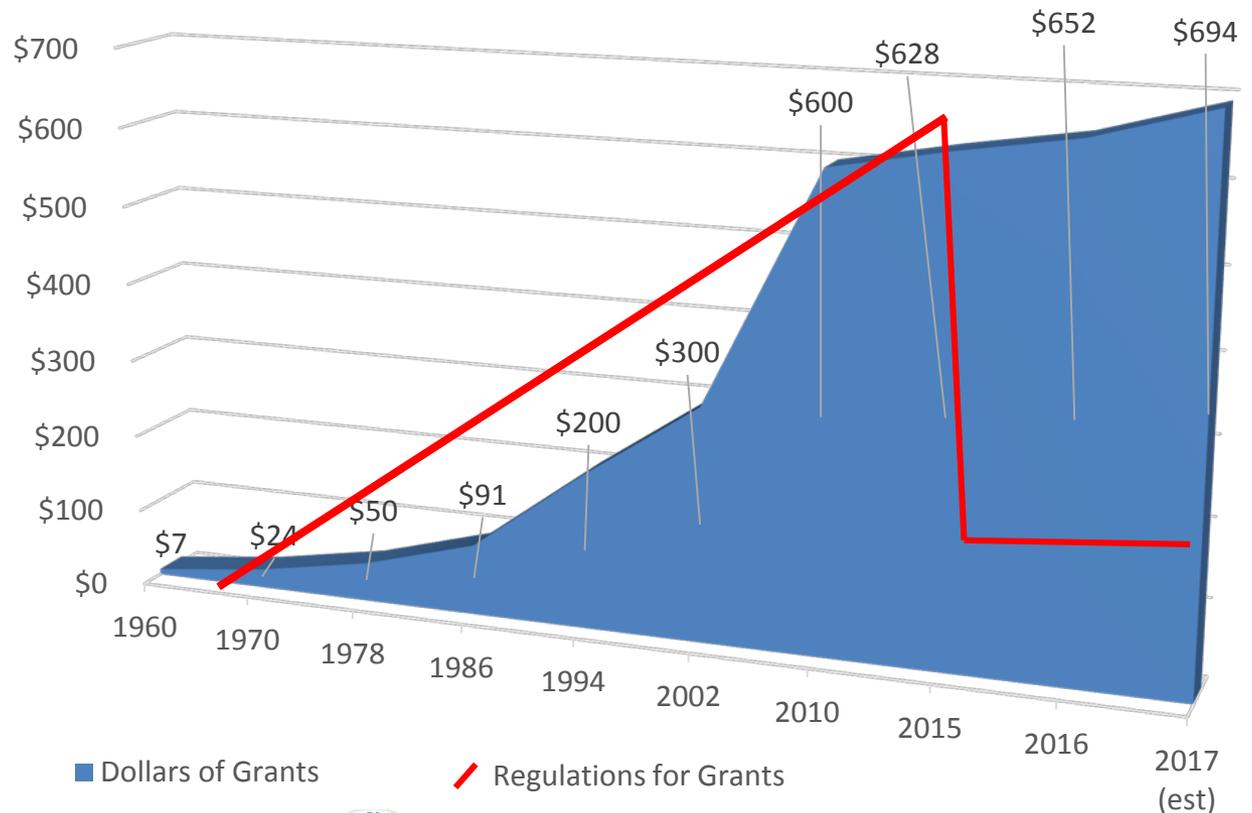


Grants Management

Since the Land-Grant Act of 1862, the Federal government uses a **grant** to transfer a thing of value to another entity to carry out a public purpose authorized by law.

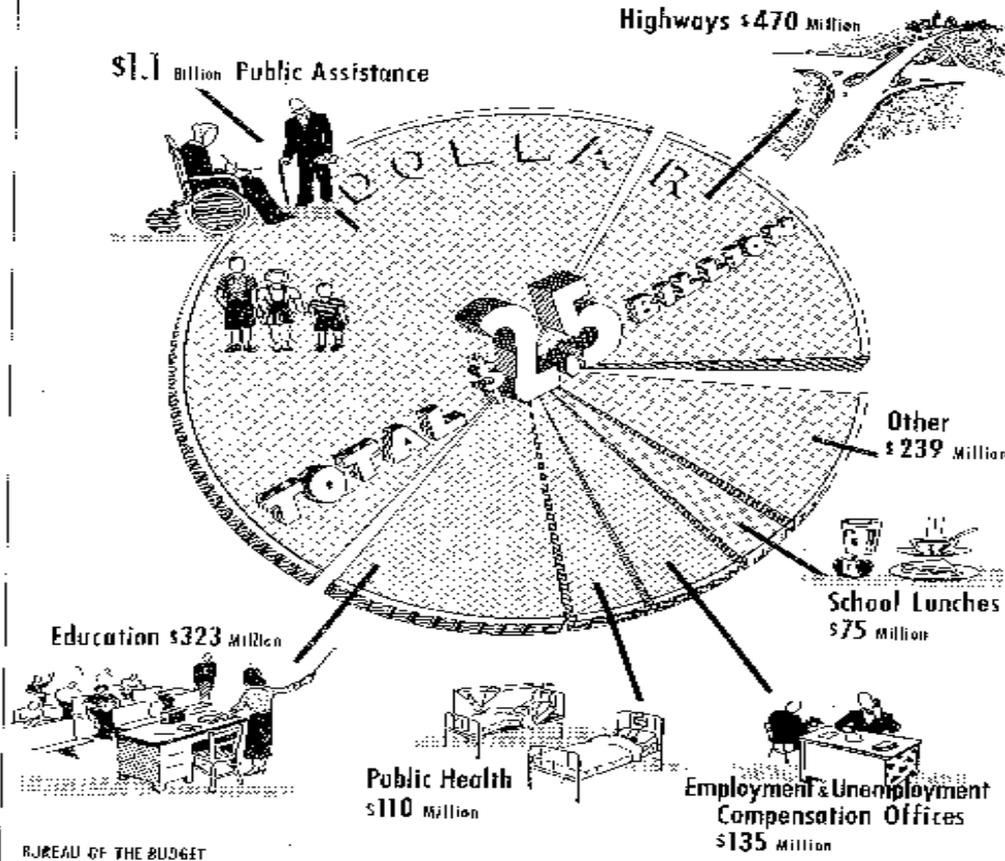
- In 2013 - new “Uniform Guidance reduced regulation volume by 75%, focused on performance over compliance and used “risk” to target the balance between oversight and flexibility

Grant Growth (Dollars in Billions)



Federal Grants to States

Fiscal Year 1950 Estimated
(Includes Proposed Legislation)





General Electric

“We Bring
Good Things to
Life”

Grant - “We Improve
the Quality of Life”



Last Week



Recent Developments

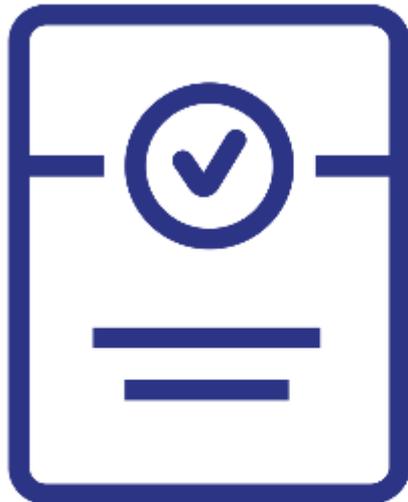
- Uniform Guidance
- Grants 101 Training
- Career Roadmap
- DATA Act Implementation



COUNCIL ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM

COUNCIL ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM

The COFAR, established by [OMB Memorandum M-12-01](#), is comprised of an interagency group of Executive Branch officials to coordinate financial assistance. Council activities include providing recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on policies and actions necessary to effectively deliver, oversee, and report on grants and cooperative agreements, as well as sharing with executive departments and agencies (agencies) best practices and innovative ideas for transforming the delivery of this assistance. In addition, the Council will engage relevant stakeholders across Government on key issues to foster more efficient and effective Federal management by coordinating the development and implementation of standardized business processes, data standards, metrics, and information technology. This Council replaces two Federal boards – the Grants Policy Council and the Grants Executive Board to create a more streamlined, flexible, and strategic structure. The Council's work builds in part on grants streamlining activities under Public Law (P.L.) 106-107, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. COFAR and CFOC efforts are supported partly by the Financial Management Line of Business.



UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Uniform Guidance In December 2014, OMB together with Federal awarding agencies issued an interim final



TRAINING

COFAR Training As part the COFAR's mission to effectively deliver, oversee, and report on grants and



COFAR RESOURCES

COFAR Resources What is the Council on Financial Assistance Reform? OMB Memorandum M-12-01

The Uniform Guidance (UG)

- Guidance for Federal financial assistance published in 2 CFR
- Goal: Better target financial risks and better direct resources to achieve ***better program outcomes***
- Published in December, 2013 → Effective in December, 2014



Efficiency and Effectiveness

- Standard data
 - Definitions
 - Notice of Funding Opportunities
 - Application
 - Award Notice
- 200.201 (b) Fixed award amount
- 200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants
- 200.301 Performance Measurement



Efficiency and Effectiveness

- 200.302 Financial Management
- 200.327 Financial Reporting
- 200.328 Monitoring and reporting program performance
- 200.343 Closeout
- 200.414 De minimis rate and one-time extension for up to 4 years



Grants Management 101

Federal Grants Management 101 available at
<https://grants101.usalearning.net>

- Module 1 – Laws, Regulations and Guidance
- Module 2 – Financial Assistance Mechanisms
- Module 3 – Uniform Guidance Administrative Requirements
- Module 4 – Cost Principles
- Module 5 – Risk Management and Single Audit



True or False

- Costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances must be treated consistently as either direct or indirect (F&A) costs.
- All costs must receive prior written approval in order to be allowable.
- Only the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity can initiate an action to suspend or terminate a Federal award either in whole or in part.



Risk Posed by Applicants



Knowledge Check

Which of the following are required by 2 CFR 200.205 to be included in the review of risk posed by applicants?

- Review the System for Award Management exclusions list
- Check for tax liens with the IRS
- Establish a framework for evaluating risk posed by applicants
- Check the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System if expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold
- Conduct a background check on all staff proposed for the award

Select all responses that apply.



Grants Management Career Roadmap



- Resource for workforce planning and development
- Grants management specialists, program managers, financial analysts, or any other job series with grants management responsibilities
- Interactive online version with building blocks for customizing model for agency



DATA Act Implementation



DATA Act

BETTER DATA. BETTER DECISIONS.
BETTER GOVERNMENT.

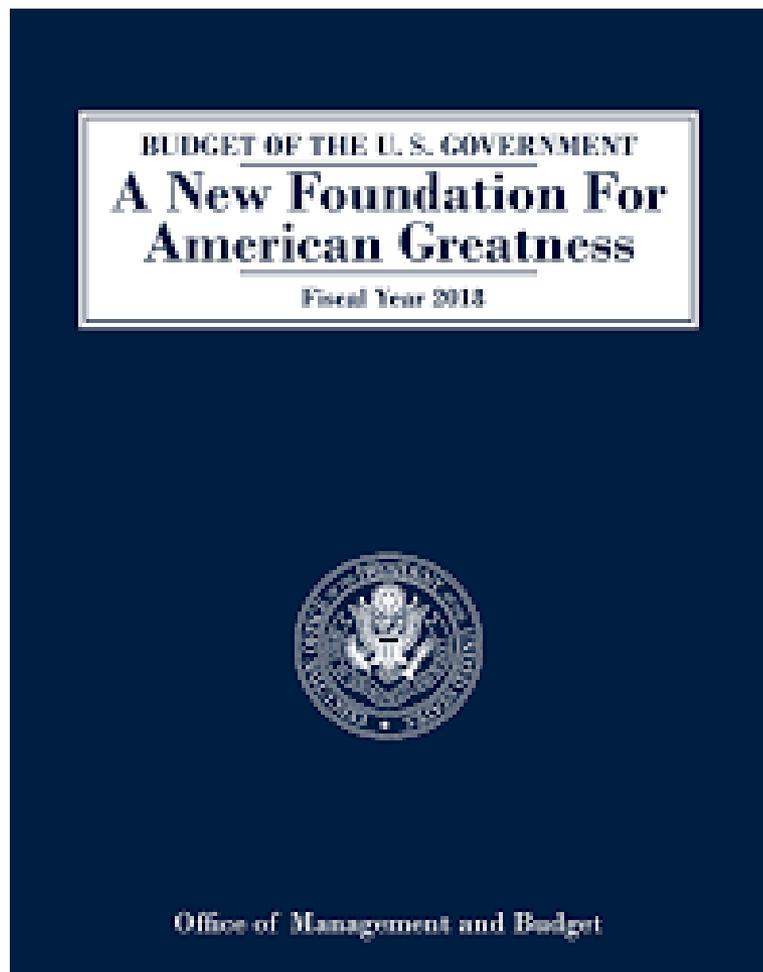
- Data standards help to ensure that information will be consistent and comparable and standard data exchange makes financial management data accessible and reusable.
- Grants specific portion of pilot
 - Testing and analysis for consolidating the Federal Financial Reporting process
 - Testing and analysis for consolidating SF-SAC and SEFA reporting
 - Developing and testing the Common Data Elements Repository Library (C-DER Library) for financial assistance data
 - Increasing access to information about the grants lifecycle through the Learn Grants page on grants.gov



Future Priorities



Management Chapter



M-17-22, Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Civilian Workforce

Presidential Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch (March 13, 2017)

Presidential Executive Order on Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs (January 30, 2017)



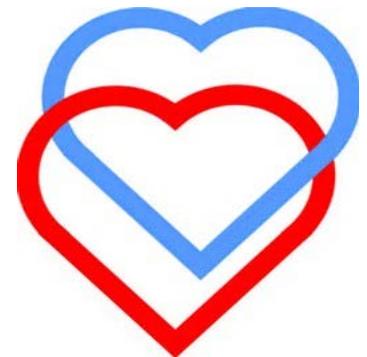


Main Themes

Beauty

Trust

Love



President's Management Agenda

The Administration will take action to ensure that by 2020 we will be able to say:

1. Federal agencies are managing programs and delivering critical services more effectively

2. Federal agencies are devoting greater percentage of taxpayer dollars to mission achievement rather than costly, unproductive compliance activities.

3. Federal agencies are more effective and efficient in supporting program outcomes.

4. Agencies have been held accountable for improving performance.



Thoughts and Questions

